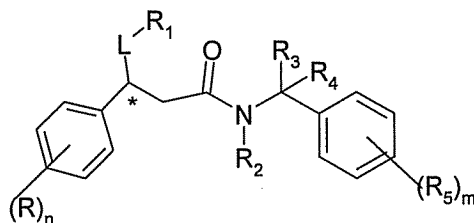


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein

R is halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, cyano, C_{1-4} alkoxy, trifluoromethyl or trifluoromethoxy;

R_1 is a R_1 is a 4, 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic group, wherein the 4, 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic group may optionally be substituted by one to three substituents, which may be the same or different, selected from $(CH_2)_p R_6$, wherein p is zero or an integer from 1 to 4 and R_6 is selected from:

halogen,

C_{1-4} alkoxy,

C_{1-4} alkyl,

C_{3-7} cycloalkyl,

C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, cyano or C_{1-4} alkoxy,

hydroxy,

cyano,

nitro,

trifluoromethyl,

carboxy,

$NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl),

$N(C_{1-4} \text{ alkyl})_2$
 $NH(C_{3-7} \text{ cycloalkyl}),$
 $N(C_{1-4} \text{ alkyl})(C_{3-7} \text{ cycloalkyl});$
 $NH(C_{1-4} \text{ alkyl}OC_{1-4} \text{ alkoxy}),$
 $OC(O)NR_7R_8,$
 $NR_8C(O)R_7$ or
 $C(O)NR_7R_8;$

R_2 is hydrogen, or C_{1-4} alkyl ;

R_3 and R_4 independently are hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or R_3 together with R_4 and the carbon to which they are bonded is C_{3-7} cycloalkyl;

R_5 is trifluoromethyl, $S(O)_qC_{1-4} \text{ alkyl}$, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, trifluoromethoxy, halogen or cyano;

R_7 and R_8 independently are hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{3-7} cycloalkyl;

L is a single or a double bond;

n is an integer from 1 to 3;

m is zero or an integer from 1 to 3;

q is zero or an integer from 1 to 2;

provided that

- ~~a) when L is a double bond, R_1 is not an optionally substituted 5 or 6 membered heteroaryl group, in which the 5 membered heteroaryl group contains at least one heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen and the 6 membered heteroaryl group contains from 1 to 3 nitrogen atoms;~~

[[b]] a) the group R_1 is linked to the carbon atom shown as * via a carbon atom;

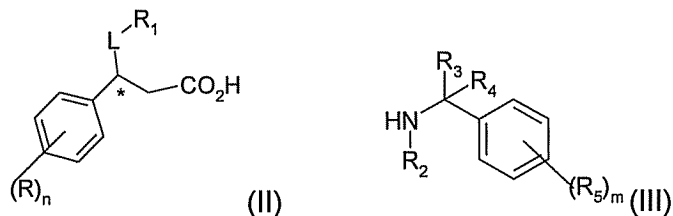
and

[[c]] b) when the heteroatom contained in the group R_1 is substituted, p is not zero; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R is halogen or C_{1-4} alkyl and n is an integer from 1 to 2.

3. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R₅ is trifluoromethyl, methyl, methoxy, bromine, chlorine or fluorine atom and m is an integer from 1 to 2.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R is halogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl and n is an integer from 1 to 2; ~~R₁ is piperidyl, 2-morpholinyl, 1,2,3,6-tetrahydro-4-pyridinyl, pyridyl or pyrrolidinyl and wherein R₁ is optionally substituted by one or two groups selected from halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl or ethylC₁₋₄alkoxy;~~ R₂ and R₃ are independently hydrogen or methyl; R₄ is hydrogen, methyl or together with R₃ is cyclopropyl and R₅ is trifluoromethyl, methyl, methoxy, bromine, chlorine or fluorine atom and m is preferably an integer from 1 to 2.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) A compound selected from
N-{(1*R*)-1-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethyl}-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-(4-piperidinyl)propionamide (diastereoisomer 1);
N-{(1*S*)-1-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethyl}-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-(4-piperidinyl)propionamide (diastereoisomer 2);
N-{(1*R*)-1-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethyl}-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(4-fluoro-4-piperidinyl)-*N*-methylpropionamide (diastereoisomer 1);
N-[(3,5-dibromophenyl)methyl]-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(4-fluoro-4-piperidinyl)-*N*-methylpropionamide (enantiomer 2);
N-[[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methyl]-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(3-fluoro-3-piperidinyl)-*N*-methylpropionamide (diastereoisomer A);
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof.
8. (Withdrawn) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1 which comprises reacting an activated derivative of the carboxylic acid of formula (II)

wherein R_1 has the meaning previously defined or is a protected group thereof, with amine (III)



wherein R_2 is C_{1-4} alkyl or a nitrogen protecting group, followed where necessary by removal of any protecting group.

9-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1 in admixture with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R is fluorine or chlorine or methyl and n is an integer from 1 to 2.

15. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R is fluorine or chlorine or methyl and n is an integer from 1 to 2; ~~R_1 is piperidyl, 2-morpholinyl, 1,2,3,6-tetrahydro-4-pyridinyl, pyridyl or pyrrolidinyl and wherein R_1 is optionally substituted by one or two groups selected from fluorine, methyl or ethyl~~ C_{1-4} alkoxy; R_2 and R_3 are independently hydrogen or methyl; R_4 is hydrogen, methyl or together with R_3 is cyclopropyl and R_5 is trifluoromethyl, methyl, methoxy, bromine, chlorine or fluorine atom and m is preferably an integer from 1 to 2.

16. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of a depressive state in a mammal in need thereof, comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.

17. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said depressive state is a Major Depressive Disorder.

18. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said mammal is man.

19. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of anxiety in a mammal in need thereof, comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.

20. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in a mammal in need thereof, comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.